

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-3. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Ota et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0188364 A1). Claim 3 was rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suyama et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0156547 A1). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1

Applicants have amended claim 1 to better claim the invention in several ways. First, Applicants have amended the recited “operators,” such as in “bus selecting operators” to “controls,” such as “bus selecting controls.” Second, Applicants have changed such phrasings as a section “turns on/off delivery” to a section “sets whether or not to permit delivery” Third, Applicants have added phrases to further make clear the bus selecting controls and the relationship among the input channels, the channel-ON controls and the signal ON/OFF state.

The present invention is directed to a digital mixer apparatus. The apparatus comprises a plurality of bus selecting controls. For example, Fig. 2 of the present application illustrates auxiliary bus selecting switches 203 for selecting an auxiliary bus. The apparatus further comprises a plurality of channel-ON controls. These controls correspond to input channels and set whether or not sounds signals corresponding to the input channels are delivered to a bus. The controls have a display that displays a signal ON/OFF state. For example, Fig. 2 illustrates channel-ON switches 212 having LEDs 216. The ON/OFF states of the input channels for a given selected bus can be set through a screen. For example, Fig. 5A shows a screen where the user can set the ON/OFF state and the delivery levels of the input channels for the selected auxiliary bus 2 (see reference numeral 501).

The present invention allows a user to be able to quickly determine the state of delivery of sound signals from channels to a selected bus. By pressing the bus selecting control for a given bus beyond a predetermined time period, the apparatus controls the display of the channel-ON

controls to display their ON/OFF states for that bus. For example, if the user simply presses an auxiliary bus selecting switch 203 for a given bus beyond a predetermined time period, the channel-ON switches 212 display their respective ON/OFF states via LEDs 216 (see Fig. 2). In this manner, the user does not need to view a screen such as Fig. 5A to determine which sound signals of the input channels will be delivered to a given bus.

Claim 1 recites "a plurality of bus selecting controls provided in one-to-one corresponding relation to said plurality of buses, each of said bus selecting controls selecting a corresponding one of said buses in response to operation thereof" and "a control section a control section that, while any one of said plurality of bus selecting controls is being operated beyond a predetermined time period, causes the displays of said channel-ON controls to display ON/OFF states . . . of the delivery of the sound signals from the input channels . . . to the bus corresponding to the one bus selecting control."

In contrast, Ota does not disclose the above recitations. First, Ota does not disclose "a plurality of bus selecting controls provided in one-to-one corresponding relation to a plurality of buses." The Examiner cites to the SEL key 232 illustrated in Fig. 2 and paragraphs 0049-50 of Ota. The SEL key 232 selects a channel not a bus. This is clear from paragraph 0040 which explains that SEL key 232 is "used for displaying a window of the mixer input *channel* to perform various settings" (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner also notes the ON key 233 of Ota meets the recited channel-ON operators. (See page 3 of the Office Action; paragraph 0040 of Ota.) However, Ota fails to disclose bus selecting controls and thus provides no disclosure connecting the displays of ON keys 233 to the operation of an operated bus selecting control. That is, Ota fails to disclose a control section that "while any one of said plurality of bus selecting controls is being operated beyond a predetermined time period, causes the displays of said channel-ON controls to display ON/OFF states . . . of the delivery of the sound signals from the input channels . . . to the bus corresponding to the one bus selecting control."

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is not anticipated by Ota.

Claim 2

Claim 2 has been amended in similar manner to claim 1.

The present invention, as set forth in claim 2, is also directed to a digital mixer apparatus comprising a plurality of bus selecting controls and a plurality of channel-ON controls. When one of the bus selecting controls is operated beyond a predetermined time period and in response to an operation on a channel-ON control, a control section changes the ON/OFF state of the delivery of the sound signal from the channel to the selected bus. In this manner, the user does not need to access a screen such as Fig. 5A to change which sound signals of the input channels will be delivered to a given bus.

Claim 2 recites “a plurality of bus selecting controls provided in one-to-one corresponding relation to said plurality of buses, each of said bus selecting controls selecting a corresponding one of said buses in response to operation thereof” and “a control section that, while any one of said plurality of bus selecting controls is being operated beyond a predetermined time period, changes, in response to operation of any one of said channel-ON controls, the ON/OFF state . . . of the delivery of the sound signal from the input channel, corresponding to the one channel-ON control, to the bus corresponding to the one bus selecting control.”

In contrast, Ota does not disclose the above recitations. As discussed above, Ota does not disclose the recited plurality of bus selecting controls. It thus does not disclose the recited control section that changes the ON/OFF state of delivery of a sound signal in response to a bus selecting control being operated beyond a predetermined time period and in response to the operation of a channel-ON control.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 2 is not anticipated by Ota.

Claim 3

Claim 3 has been amended in similar manner to claim 1 with respect to “operators” and bus selecting controls.

Like claims 1 and 2, claim 3 is also directed to a digital mixer apparatus. The apparatus includes a plurality of bus selecting controls. It also comprises a plurality of layer controls, with each operated control selecting a predetermined number of input channels. For example, Fig. 2 illustrates layer switches 204-206 for selecting different layers of input channels, *e.g.*, channels 1-16 or channels 17-32. The apparatus comprises a first bus, such as a MIX bus (*see e.g.*, 411 in Fig. 4). It also comprises a plurality of second buses selected with a plurality of bus selecting controls.

Once any one of the bus selecting controls is operated during operation of any one of the layer controls, delivery levels of signals of a predetermined number of channels corresponding to the operated layer control are copied to the selected bus from delivery level of signals of the predetermined number of channels to the first bus. In this manner, the apparatus allows, in response to a simple operation, signal delivery levels from the individual channels to the corresponding bus to be made identical to signal delivery levels from the channels of another bus.

Claim 3 recites “a plurality of layer controls provided in one-to-one corresponding relation to a plurality of layers provided by dividing said plurality of input channels into groups each comprising a predetermined number of the input channels, each of said layer controls selecting, in response to operation thereof, the predetermined number of the input channels belonging to a corresponding one of said layers” and “a control section that, in response to operation of any one of said plurality of bus selecting controls during continued operation of any one of said plurality of layer controls, copies, the delivery levels of the signals to be delivered from the predetermined number of the input channels to said second bus corresponding to the one bus selecting control, from the delivery levels, set via said first level controls, of the signals to be delivered from the predetermined number of the input channels, corresponding to the one layer control, to said first bus.”

Suyama does not disclose a control section that "in response to operation of any of said plurality of bus selecting controls during continued operation of any one of said plurality of layer controls" performs the recited copying from one bus to another. Paragraphs 0020-22 and 0060 of Suyama cited by the Examiner do not disclose the recited control section. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out where Suyama discloses the recited control section.

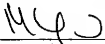
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 393032044100.

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